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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN COMET OF 1901.

Shortly before the total eclipse of 1901, May 18th, a very bright comet appeared in the southern sky, being discovered almost simultaneously at a number of places. The first reported sight of it in Sumatra was on May 3d, by Mr. W. W. DINWIDDIE, of the U. S. Naval Observatory expedition at Solok. It was then near the Sun in the evening sky, but very bright and conspicuous even in bright twilight.

The comet was not seen in Padang until the evening of May 5th. It was then brilliant, with a tail 6° or 8° in length, although it is said to have lost much of its light in the interval of two days.

On May 6th, the Pierson-Dallmeyer camera for use at the eclipse was temporarily mounted, and on the same evening four exposures were made. The longest exposure was seven minutes, and recorded the tail to a distance of 4° .

The accompanying illustration is from the second negative obtained, with an exposure of three minutes, and is enlarged two diameters. The tail on this plate is shown to a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and a second very faint streamer is to be seen to the south, making an angle of about 35° with the principal tail. The principal tail appears to be of the hollow cylindrical type usually seen in the case of large comets, especially those making a near approach to the Sun.

The nucleus of the comet and the star-images are seen elongated, owing to the lack of means to correct for the varying refraction and the irregularities of the driving clock.

C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, CALIFORNIA, 1902, May 15.

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THE GREAT SOUTHERN COMET OF 1901.

From a photograph taken at Padang, May, 1901, by C. D. PERRINE.